

April 11, 2015

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9

Drinking Water Protection Section, Mail Code WTR-3-2

75 Hawthorne Street

San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: NHPA Section 106 Process

As a resident of Florence, AZ, I am deeply concerned that the EPA is considering granting a permit to the Florence Copper Project, and its parent Taseko, to initiate in-situ acid leach mining in Florence. Once the groundwater, in an aquifer which stretches far to the north, is compromised, there will be no turning back and much of Pinal County could be rendered unusable land due to a lack of potable or drinkable water.

The only in-situ acid leach(ISL) mining sites to date have not been in the United States, have been for uranium mining, and have had disastrous results world wide. In no case has the initiating mining company been able to restore the groundwater to its prior state. Please, before you condemn an entire area of our state, read the **WISE Uranium Project** reports –available on line- and note the environmental impacts of projects like this one and the lack of ability to accomplish restorations under reclamation projects. In some parts of the world areas of up to 50 miles in radius have had to be declared uninhabitable due to ISL operations and the resulting contamination.

The residents of Florence and the surrounding towns will have no redress against Taseko, being a foreign entity, once the water is contaminated and there will be no ability through litigation to recover our lost homes and property values.

With the entire Southwest facing water shortage concerns, please do not allow a foreign company, for profit, to endanger yet another water supply.

Mary Greenewald

FOIA Exemption 6

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